

## John Kline Backs Legislation to Hold VA Accountable

Washington, May 21

WASHINGTON – Minnesota Congressman John Kline supported bipartisan legislation today which passed the U.S. House of Representatives that would give the Secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) the authority to terminate senior leaders working at the VA.

*“I remain very concerned by recent media reports highlighting the severe mismanagement and lack of accountability across the VA,” said Kline, after voting for the “Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act” (H.R. 4031). “Congress, the VA, and the President all must take these reports seriously, and I was pleased to support this legislation which provides Secretary Shinseki another tool to address this dereliction of duty. I call on the Senate and the President to act and hold any responsible parties accountable, and uphold the quality of care promised to our veterans.”*

Under current law, removal of senior government officials is a bureaucratic process. H.R. 4031 allows the Secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to circumvent this existing process and remove Senior Executive Service (SES) managers whose performance warrants removal.

Congressman John Kline serves as the Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee. He also serves on the House Armed Services Committee. He and his wife, Vicky, live in Burnsville.